



Bridges Pound – Helping to Engineer the Cleethorpes Revival

The Leeds Office of Structural Engineers Bridges Pound has helped deliver the imaginative Meridian Lakeside Scheme, part of North East Lincolnshire's improvement strategy for Cleethorpes.

The project, which focused on creating a new, 10,000-capacity Events Arena and Control Tower, building a number of craft units, and extending and improving the Discovery Centre, will help transform Cleethorpes into an all-year visitor attraction.

The building work was started in June 2007 and will be completed at the end of January, thanks to the project partnership between Bridges Pound, contractors Britcon and North East Lincolnshire Council. What was an empty field is now the Events Arena and Control Tower, a transformation taking only 18 weeks of construction.

The existing Discovery Centre, already a popular tourist attraction in Cleethorpes, has been redeveloped to provide a brand-new exhibition centre with training and meeting rooms, and full catering facilities. A fully refurbished café will serve the needs of the local community, tourists and other visitors from outside the area.

Seven innovative craft units have been developed for rent in the new Craft Centre, next to Cleethorpes' award-winning light railway and the Events Arena. A high-quality, new-build hotel is now to be located nearby, with the new facilities certain to have been a factor in this decision.

The Meridian Development Scheme forms the first part of an ambitious Integrated Development Plan (IDP), intended to help regenerate Cleethorpes. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Yorkshire Forward, North East Lincolnshire Council, and a number of private partners, the scheme will help boost Cleethorpes' visitor numbers by a projected 250,000 by 2009.

Trade shows, concerts and exhibitions can all now be accommodated and it is also expected that visitors from outside the area will travel into Cleethorpes to enjoy the new leisure facilities.

Tony James, Director of the Bridges Pound Leeds office, says: "Bridges Pound is proud to be involved in a scheme to regenerate an area of Cleethorpes for local businesses, local people and tourists. This is the start of major redevelopment in the Cleethorpes area, which will make a strong positive impact on the community."

Sam Ivers, IDP Project Officer for North East Lincolnshire Council, praises the commitment of Bridges Pound: "The project timescales have been extremely tight and Bridges Pound has been very cooperative and efficient in their assistance and contribution to this exciting project."